

Claim 13 is a computer system claim generally configured to share handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of clients associated with the document. For example, claim 13 defines an annotation device that is a client of the server, the annotation device including an annotations program that manages handwritten annotations input by a first client that is among the plurality of clients and includes at least one operating mode configured to write the handwritten annotation data of the first client to a shared canvas in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of clients with any other of the plurality of clients such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of clients handwritten annotations. Claim 13 further defines a send mechanism that sends the shared canvas, including any shared handwritten annotations to a server for distribution to at least some of the plurality of clients, the shared handwritten annotations identified as public and selectively published to at least one client and not published to at least one other client. Claim 31 is a computer system claim similar to claim 1.

Claim 35 is generally directed to sharing handwritten annotation data related to one or more pages of a document among a plurality of computer users. For example, claim 35 defines receiving from a computer user handwritten annotation data for sharing via a shared canvas, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users. Claim 35 further defines sending the handwritten annotation data to a server for combining with other handwritten annotation data on a shared canvas in response to a determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data. Lastly, claim 35 defines receiving from the server an updated shared canvas including handwritten annotation data entered by other computer users of the plurality of computer users.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record does not anticipate or otherwise render the amended claims unpatentable for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose, suggest, or enable each and every element of these claims.

Hendriks describes a method for providing handwritten stroke information to an instant messaging (IM) system (par. [0010]). *Hendriks* further describes a method for causing the stroke information to show up inline, in the IM message box in real time (par. [0011]). Furthermore, in

Hendriks, annotations can be scaled up or down to fit in the IM message box (par. [0012]). *Gupta* describes adding audio, text or video annotations to a multimedia presentation (e.g. comments on a professor's lecture) (Col. 1:60-63). In *Gupta*, users can read, watch or listen to comments and respond, thus creating a "classroom discussion" outside of class (Col. 2:4-8). Users can leave comments for multiple media streams (Col. 2:34-40).

Martin describes a process and apparatus for highlighting information on a remote display in a computer conferencing system (Col. 2:1-3). At a conference, a user can point to and highlight items on other people's screens (Col. 1:50-55). In *Martin*, the display is a combined image of the highlight and the foreground image 'AND'ed together (Col. 2:17-20). *Barsness* describes a method for providing enhanced annotation and usage tracking and monitoring on a handheld electronic book reader (par. [0009]).

Neither *Hendriks*, *Gupta*, *Martin* nor *Barsness* teach or suggest automatically writing the handwritten annotation data of the first user to a shared canvas in response to the determination that the handwritten annotation data is public data, the shared canvas for sharing handwritten annotations received from any of the plurality of users with any other of the plurality of users such that handwritten annotations appear to be written on a common display surface shared among the plurality of users, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, neither *Hendriks*, *Gupta*, *Martin* nor *Barsness* teach or suggest distributing the shared canvas, including any shared handwritten annotations, to at least one device of at least one recipient subscriber. At least for either of these reasons, claim 1 patentably defines over the art of record. At least for either of these reasons, claims 13, 31 and 35 also patentably define over the art of record.

Since each of the dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 13, 31 and 35, each of the dependent claims also patentably define over the art of record for at least either of the same reasons.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. because the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 12 has been amended to recite "a computer storage medium." Thus, applicants submit that claim 12 is now in a state of allowance.

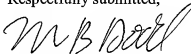
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending

application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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